



# News **LEAD** er

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM  
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**NEW!**

## On-line Continuing Medical Education (CME) Course

An on-line lead poisoning CME course was developed by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Lead Poisoning and the DHSS, CLPPP to give healthcare providers information about lead poisoning in Missouri, and the most recent and effective methods to identify and treat children that may be exposed to lead hazards. Topics covered include: sources of lead exposure; lead metabolism; harmful effects of lead; assessing the risk of lead poisoning; history of blood lead levels; blood lead testing and Missouri requirements; case management of elevated blood lead levels; and chelation therapy.

Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics is sponsoring this free on-line course in order to provide CME credits to physicians. **Participating physicians (M.D.'s and D.O.'s) will be awarded one (1) Category I credit hour toward the American Medical Association's (AMA) Physician's Recognition Award.** However, all are welcome to take the course and will receive a certificate of participation.

The course has been available since April. So far, 30 healthcare providers have taken the course.

The course may be found on the DHSS, CLPPP website at:  
<http://www.dhss.mo.gov/ChildhoodLead>.

## Senate Bill 95

Senate Bill 95 was signed by Governor Matt Blunt on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Highlights of this bill include:

1. A one dollar check-off on the Missouri income tax return was created. The money designated by the check-off will be deposited into the Childhood Lead Testing Fund.

2. A representative from the Missouri DHSS or local government or health dept. has the authority to re-enter a dwelling or child-occupied facility to determine if the owner has taken the actions required for abating or establishing interim controls for the lead hazard.

3. The director of the Missouri DHSS shall require lead abatement contractors to purchase and maintain liability and error and omissions insurance.

4. The Missouri DHSS will have the power to impose administrative penalties for noncompliance of state regulations.

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## **Protect Your Family/ Proteja a su familia Campaign.**

During this statewide campaign, lead poisoning prevention advocates were asked to provide materials (fact sheets, public service announcements, and posters) in both English and Spanish to their communities. The goal of this campaign was to target Hispanic communities, due to recent lead hazards being identified in Mexican candy and spicy powders. A big thanks to Shirley Scatcherd, RN, and Ed Zeyadich, both of St. Louis County Health Department, who saw the need for lead prevention materials in Bosnian and were able to translate the current campaign materials into Bosnian. They were generous to share these materials with everyone. If you did not receive the materials in Bosnian and are interested, please contact Kim Crafton.

Forty-eight agencies participated in this campaign, including Local Public Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Managed Care Plans, WIC, and various community organizations. This campaign had great participation across the state.

Lead Poisoning prevention materials are sent out twice a year for a spring campaign (April/May) and then again for a campaign during the fall (October). If you have any ideas for future campaigns, please let Kim Crafton know.

## **MOHSAIC Update**

**By Patty Osman**

Significant progress has been made in the conversion of the childhood blood lead surveillance system from STELLAR to the Lead Application in MOHSAIC during the past quarter. Conversion for data in outstate (all sites except St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Kansas City and Springfield), was completed in March 2005. St. Louis City data was converted to MOHSAIC on the weekend of May 14<sup>th</sup>. CLPPP staff continue to verify data in the new application, identify problems for the development team and enter blood lead testing, case management and risk assessment data into the new system. Also during this time period, training sessions for data entry, case management and risk assessment staff have been conducted in Jefferson City and St. Louis City. The current timetable finalizes conversion efforts for the remaining three sites during the month of August. During the fall, our main goal is to provide training for users of the application.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation during this transition from STELLAR to MOHSAIC.

## **National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) October 23-29, 2005**

Mark your calendars now! NLPPW will be here in just a few months. Along with the State of Missouri, CDC, EPA, & HUD will be recognizing this week as national lead week. The theme this year is... **"Put a Lid on Lead"**. I am currently working on campaign materials for this week. I should have those to you in early September. Please plan on participating!



## Counties in the Spotlight



### **Iron County Health Department**

Over the past year, Iron County Health Department (ICHD) has worked very hard to increase the awareness of lead poisoning in their community. Read below for four different tactics that have worked for them.

1. Educating WIC enrolled children and parents. Each time a child was certified or re-certified on the WIC program, parents received information on lead poisoning and talked about ways to prevent it. Children were taught to wash their hands often and were given an activity book to reinforce this behavior.

2. Presenting to Childcare Providers. Childcare providers were presented with a one-hour program on the effects of lead poisoning and the importance of prevention. Approximately sixty-five children were also presented with a program using the “Sesame Street Lead Away” video and a demonstration of handwashing. The nurses from ICHD visited one local childcare center to do lead testing on the children enrolled. This center now has 100% of their children tested.

3. Attending Parents-As-Teachers (PAT) meetings. At a PAT meeting, lead poisoning literature was distributed to twenty-two Parents-As-Teacher educators. The literature discussed the importance of having a child tested and ways to prevent lead poisoning. Forty-three children who attended the meeting were given activity books, rulers, and sponges.

4. Encouraging Healthcare Providers. Healthcare providers are encouraged to test the children they see, or refer them to ICHD if they are unable to test them.



### **Kansas City Health Department**

The recall of Lucas Candies, due to possible adulteration with lead, provided an opportunity for the Kansas City CLPPP to collaborate with the Kansas City Health Department’s Food Protection Program in investigating the prevalence of recalled candy and seasonings on grocery shelves.

Their first step was to send a letter to all permitted grocery retailers advising storeowners of the recall. This took place in January 2005. A week after the letter was sent out, CLPPP nurses and food inspectors investigated multiple grocery stores for the presence of the recalled candy. A Kansas City Star news reporter participated in these investigations and did a story on lead in candy, providing another outlet to educate the public.

In early February, additional reports that the candy was still being sold created concern that working with grocery retailers was not enough. A second letter was sent out to specialty food stores, gas stations, and small stores selling general merchandise. This letter was provided in both English and Spanish and included pictures of the recalled candies.

As part of this initiative, food inspectors are now looking for the recalled candies and are educating retailers about the recall as part of their regular inspection duties. CLPPP staff provided each inspector with a laminated color poster of “Toxic Treats” from the Orange County, California Register and a written statement the inspectors could share with the retailers about the recall and who to contact to return the merchandise.

For more information on the Lucas candy recall, contact the Kansas City CLPPP or the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services CLPPP.

# Ideas To Inspire

## In search of a new avenue to reach parents?

Try MOPS. Jennifer Umland, Henry County Health Department, has found a new avenue that enables her to reach those often overlooked by Medicaid and those who are stay-at-home moms. She has distributed lead poisoning educational information to the local Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group. MOPS is a support network of women who share the common bond of preschool age children. In Henry County, the group consists of 40 moms who meet at a local church.

Ms. Umland also works with her local Parents-As-Teachers (PAT) organization. The Parents-As-Teacher educators are currently taking packets of lead information with them on their in-home sessions. This avenue reaches 200 parents.

Both MOPS and PAT have allowed Ms. Umland space in their newsletters for lead information. Thanks for the great ideas Henry County!

## Lead Bags are back!!!!

Back by popular demand! The plastic bags with Leadosaurus on the front are now available from the DHSS warehouse. The bags are stock number 932. A quantity restriction of 100 bags per order is in effect to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to receive them, and so we do not run out too fast.

Some ideas for using the bags include:

- Distribute with literature to child before or after receiving lead test.
- Distribute with literature at health fairs.
- Distribute during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 23-29<sup>th</sup>) as Halloween trick or treat bags.
- Have childcare centers, doctor offices, churches, or scouts, etc. distribute them.

## Articles Wanted!!

Tell us what you are doing.

If you would like your health department or organization to be featured in the next issue of NewsLEADER, please send your articles to:

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